

First, a review of the
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WEST GERMAN ELECTIONS

2 1/2 minutes

On the basis of the official final election returns, Chancellor *and Secretary Dulles,* Adenauer received ~~4~~ 45.2 percent of the popular vote, a gain of 14 percent over his 1949 Bundestag vote. His Christian Democratic party will command almost exactly half of the 487 seats in the new Bundestag. In alliance with the former coalition parties and the Refugee Party, which supports his integration policies, he will command slightly better than two-thirds. This strength will make possible an amendment to the

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basic law, thus permitting West German rearmament, ~~should~~ ^{in the event that} the Constitutional Court ^{should} object to the Bonn and Paris treaties.

Adenauer's success results in the first instance, from his personal prestige and his achievement in restoring Germany to a respected position. Important contributing factors are the high level of German prosperity, a general dislike of all forms of radicalism, his defiance of the ^{Soviet Union.} ~~USSR~~, and at least some popular approval of his policy of allying the Federal Republic closely with Western Europe and the United States.

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With four years of unchallenged legislative power facing him, Adenauer will be able to adopt exceedingly flexible policies to suit his needs.

The Chancellor is emotionally attached to European unity, and will ^{the European Defense Community,} almost certainly support the EDC, in the immediate months ahead. ~~is~~,

^{if} However, [^]the French government has not acted affirmatively on the Bonn and Paris treaties by next spring, Adenauer may then push for ^{some other} ~~another~~ solution on rearmament, which would give West Germany greater independence

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and allow him to play the role of the leading statesman of the continent.

The election cannot be interpreted solely as a referendum on EDC.

It is clear, nevertheless, that fresh impetus has been given the general concept of European integration.

main opposition, the

The Social Democratic Party's share of the vote, was ~~less than~~ one

percent below its 1949 mark of 29 percent. Extensive changes in ~~the~~ *that*

party may now occur, possibly including replacement of Erich Ollenhauer,

the present party chairman, by one of the moderate leaders not associated

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with all-out opposition to Adenauer's Western integration program. In any event, the party will probably now focus its political efforts on domestic issues, rather than on foreign policy.

A notable feature of the election was the collapse of all extremist parties, none of which will be represented in the Bundestag.

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